(b) whether any measures have been taken by the Government for their re-employment;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (d) It is presumed that the word "decasualised" used in part (a) of the question refer to Casual Labour retrenched in the past and the word re-employment used in part (a) and (b) of the question refers to re-engagement of Casual Labour.

There are 178 Casual Labour retrenched in the past who are borne on the live register and supplementary live register of North-east Frontier Railway as on 31.7.96. Casual Labour borne on the live register are re engaged on requirement in the order of priority on the basis of total period of the engagement prior to their retrenchment.

[Translation]

Foreign Tourists

2193. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) The number of foreign tourists who visited Jammu and Kashmir during each of the last three years; and

(b) the status regarding the number of tourists after the formation of the Government?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) According to the information available from the State Government, the number of foreign tourists who visited Jammu & Kashmir during 1994 to 1996 are as follows:-

Year	Number of foreign tourists
1994	24683
1995	20589
1996	22628(R)

R: Revised

(b) Total number of foreign tourists who visited the State during 1996 since the formation of new Government in October 1996 were 2945 registering an increase of about 32.54% over the corresponding period of 1995.

[English]

Employees Provident Fund Organisation

2194. SHRI N.N. KRISHANDAS: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new sub-accounts offices of Employees Provident Fund Organisation all over the country;

(b) the number out of the them in Kerala;

(c) whether any new offices are proposed to be opened in Palghat industrial area; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (d) The E.P.F. Organisation has a total of 16 Regional Offices, 56 Sub-Regional Offices and 7 Sub-Accounts Offices out of which two Sub-Regional Offices and one Regional Office are in Kerala. Recently a proposal to open one Sub-Accounts Office each at Ambattur and Tambaram has been approved by the Executive Committee of the C.B.T., EPF. Final decision on the proposal for opening of an office at Palghat has not been taken yet.

Fall of Occupancy Rate in Hotels

2195. SHRI V. PRADEEP DEV: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was fall in occupancy rate in Hotels in the country during the peak season i.e. from October 1996 to February, 1997 as compared to the corresponding period last year despite the increase in arrival of foreign tourists in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any proposal to reduce the hotel rates in our country which are comparable to some of the best hotels in Now York and lay down guidelines in fixing room rent to hotels which keep on hiking their rates every year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the number of hotels in the country constructed prior to 1982 which are also hiking their rates every year;

(f) whether the Government propose to lay down any guidelines for them also; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) The occupancy rates of the hotels have shown a marginal decline only at few tourist centres in the country as per the partial data available.

(b) The reasons for the decline in occupancy rates include; hike in room tariffs and also additionality of accommodation to the existing capacity at some of the centres.

(c) to (g) The hotel rates in the country, at present, are governed by market forces and vary from destination to destination and hotel to hotel.

There is no proposal under the consideration of the Government to lay-down guide lines in this respect.